IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Applicant: Art Unit: 3714 Louis A. Lippincott § 9999999 Eric M. Thomas Examiner: Serial No : 10/701.054 Conf. No.: 5501 Filed: November 3, 2003 Docket: ITL.1709US For: P17678 Gaming Interface Techniques for Media Centers

§ Assignee:

Mail Stop AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW

Sir:

Claim 25 calls for appending tags on wireless game control commands from at least two game players so that a wireless command from one player is distinguished by said media player from a wireless game command received from another player.

Gordon discloses that a suitable input device, such as a game pad controller, may be used by both players to control the characters. Gordon is viewed by the Examiner as a system capable of receiving game control commands from the players and identifying which commands originate with each of the players. Gordon has a <u>wired</u> system. Since he has a wired system, he does not need and would not append tags to the signals to determine where they came from. He could determine where they came from by the port that they came in on.

Similarly, the reliance on McDonald is misplaced. There is nothing in column 1, lines 45-49 in McDonald that suggests that he appends tags to wireless game control commands from multiple game controllers so that tags can be distinguished. Although McDonald is non-specific

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on exactly how, if at all, he distinguishes commands from different players, he does indicate in one embodiment, in column 6, lines 26-31, that there is a timing basis and a TDMA system that is used to ensure that interference does not exist between the transmission of sub-data packets from the plurality of terminal devices. Thus, it appears, although McDonald is non-specific, that user devices are distinguished, not on the basis of tags, but by the time interval when they are allowed to transmit or receive.

Thus, none of the references teach the claimed invention and at best suggest a different approach. Using a timing basis means, that with multiple players, the commands may be delayed, which could result in a game play speed reduction.

In any case, there is no basis for a rejection since elements are missing from even the proposed combination of multiple references.

On similar bases, the other claims are also distinguishable.

Therefore, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 28, 2010 /Timothy N. Trop/

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